

REMARKS

The present application was filed on September 29, 2003 with claims 1 through 33. Claims 1 through 33 are presently pending in the above-identified patent application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Moy (United States Patent Number 5,425,102), rejected claims 8-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moy, and further in view of Serpa (United States Patent Number 6,954,862 B2), and rejected claims 27-33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moy.

Independent Claims 1, 17-19 and 27

Independent claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Moy, claims 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moy, and further in view of Serpa, and claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moy. Regarding claim 1, the Examiner asserts that Moy teaches automatically generating a password based on said selected hint.

Applicants note that Moy is directed to a "computer security apparatus (that) is appended to existing computer data file protection apparatus." (See, Abstract.) Moy teaches that

the computer security apparatus is *appended to existing computer data file protection apparatus* and operates as an adjunct thereto. *The user invokes the password and/or data file encryption processes in the usual manner*. If the user cannot remember the password used, the computer security apparatus presents a prerecorded password hint to the user in an attempt to jog the user's memory to recall the password. If the initial password hint does not accomplish this goal, a succession of additional, more specific password hints, can be provided to ultimately induce the user to recall the password.

(Abstract; emphasis added)

Moy teaches that "this apparatus also has the benefit of encouraging the *user to select obscure items as passwords*, since anyone who accesses the computer system can receive the password hints." (Col. 5, lines 61-64; emphasis added.) Moy does not, however, address the issue of *automatically generating passwords*. Independent claims 1 and 27 require *automatically generating a password* based on said selected hint. Independent claim 17 requires *automatically generating a password* based on said selected poem, said generated password having a similar rhyme and meter as said selected poem. Independent claim 18 requires *automatically generating a password* based on said selected joke, said generated password including said variations for said one or more variable words or phrases. Independent claim 19 requires *automatically generating a password* based on said

selected subset of said icons

Thus, Moy does not disclose or suggest *automatically generating a password* based on said selected hint, as required by independent claims 1 and 27, does not disclose or suggest *automatically generating a password* based on said selected poem, said generated password having a similar rhyme and meter as said selected poem, as required by independent claim 17, does not disclose or suggest *automatically generating a password* based on said selected joke, said generated password including said variations for said one or more variable words or phrases, as required by independent claim 18, and does not disclose or suggest *automatically generating a password* based on said selected subset of said icons, as required by independent claim 19.

Additional Cited References

Serpa was also cited by the Examiner for its disclosure that the pace, rhythm, or tempo of keystrokes becomes as much a part of the password as the actual letters, numbers, or symbols comprising the password. Applicants note, however, that Serpa does not address the issue of automatically generating passwords.

Thus, Serpa does not disclose or suggest *automatically generating a password* based on said selected hint, as required by independent claims 1 and 27, does not disclose or suggest *automatically generating a password* based on said selected poem, said generated password having a similar rhyme and meter as said selected poem, as required by independent claim 17, does not disclose or suggest *automatically generating a password* based on said selected joke, said generated password including said variations for said one or more variable words or phrases, as required by independent claim 18, and does not disclose or suggest *automatically generating a password* based on said selected subset of said icons, as required by independent claim 19.

Dependent Claims 2-16, 20-26 and 28-33

Dependent claims 2-7 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Moy, claims 8-16 and 20-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moy, and further in view of Serpa, and claims 28-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moy

Claims 2-16, 20-26, and 28-33 are dependent on claims 1, 19, and 27, respectively, and are therefore patentably distinguished over Moy and Serpa (alone or in any combination) because of their dependency from independent claims 1, 19, and 27 for the reasons set forth above, as well as other elements these claims add in combination to their base claim.


If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Examiner's attention to this matter is appreciated.

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Respectfully submitted,

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